

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 DHA-02 NSC-05

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:TJCHEAVNER/BTK

APPROVED BY ARA:WHLUERS

H:MR. RICHARDSON

----- 107884

R 151521Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 218893

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CASC, DR

SUBJECT: THREE PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS

REF: S.D. 3918

1. DEPARTMENT HAS NOW RECEIVED LETTER REFERRED TO REFTEL,
FROM CONGRESSMAN BADILLO. LETTER IS ALSO SIGNED BY TEN
OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, INCLUDING ROBERT N.C. NIX,
CHARLES B. RANGEL, JAMES OBERSTAR, BELLA S. ABZUG,
SHIRLEY CHISHOLM, ROBERT F. DRINAN, PARREN MITCHELL,
G. WILLIAM WHITEHURST, HELEN S. MEYNER AND MICHAEL
HARRINGTON.

2. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

- - - - -

QUOTE DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

WE ARE WRITING TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN FOR THE FATE OF
ANGEL GANDIA, JOHNNEY SAMPSON AND RAUL GARCIA, THREE
PUERTO RICAN NATIONALS WHO WERE SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS AT
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HARD LABOR BY A COURT IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC NEARLY ONE

MONTH AGO, ON JULY 31ST. YET, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT YET PUBLICLY DECLARED ITS INTENTION TO SEE THAT ITS CITIZENS RECEIVE THE PROTECTION OF THEIR GOVERNMENT AND ARE RETURNED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO PUERTO RICO.

AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE HISTORY OF THEIR CONFINEMENT, TRIAL AND IMPRISONMENT IS ANTITHETICAL TO ALL PRECEPTS OF AMERICAN JUSTICE. THE THREE PRISONERS WERE TORTURED WHILE BEING HELD INCOMMUNICADO FOR TWENTY DAYS WITHOUT CHARGES BEING BROUGHT AGAINST THEM; LAWYERS WERE REFUSED INTERVIEWS WITH THE PRISONERS, AND WERE THEMSELVES SUBJECTED TO INTENSE HARASSMENT, ONE OF THE DEFENDANTS WAS REFUSED MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR THREE DAYS AFTER SUFFERING A SERIOUS HEART ATTACK, AND THE TRIAL, ACCORDING TO AMERICAN AND PUERTO RICAN OBSERVERS, WAS A TRAVESTY, WHERE THE ONLY EVIDENCE PRESENTED WAS THE DEFENDANTS' OWN FORCED CONFESSION. AND NOW, PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS NOT INDICATED ANY INTENTION OF SIGNING AN ORDER TO DEPORT THESE MEN, EVEN THOUGH IT IS WITHIN HIS POWER TO DO SO.

WE ARE THEREFORE URGING THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MAKE APPROPRIATE - AND IMMEDIATE - REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN ORDER TO END THE ILLEGAL TREATMENT OF THESE AMERICAN CITIZENS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPT ATTENTION TO THIS CRITICAL MATTER. UNQUOTE

3. WE PROPOSE SEND INTERIM REPLY, AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE THE SECRETARY HAS ASKED ME TO RESPOND TO YOUR LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 4 REGARDING THE CASE OF THREE U.S. CITIZENS FROM PUERTO RICO WHO ARE BEING DETAINED IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

I WANT TO ASSURE THAT OUR EMBASSY IN SANTO DOMINGO AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ARE VERY MUCH AWARE OF THIS CASE AND THAT WE HAVE FOLLOWED IT VERY CLOSELY FROM THE BEGINNING. WE HAVE TAKEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONCERN TO THE DOMINICAN AUTHORITIES, AND WE HAVE BEEN IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE CASE IS STILL IN THE COURTS, SUBJECT TO APPEAL BY THE MEN UNDER DETENTION.

WE HAVE SENT THE TEXT OF YOUR LETTER TO OUR EMBASSY IN SANTO DOMINGO, REQUESTING OUR PEOPLE THERE TO GIVE US A REPORT ON YOUR VARIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT THIS CASE AND TO

KEEP US FULLY INFORMED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS.

WE WILL REPORT FURTHER TO YOU AS WE ACQUIRE MORE INFORMATION AND AS THE CASE DEVELOPS. UNQUOTE

4. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS ON APPROPRIATE FOLLOW UP RESPONSE, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS CHARGE THAT LAWYERS WERE REFUSED ACCESS TO PRISONERS AND WERE THEMSELVES HARASSED. WOULD ALSO LIKE ANY DETAILS EMBASSY MAY HAVE ON HEART ATTACK AND ALLEGED FAILURE GODR PROVIDE MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR THREE DAYS TO ONE OF PRISONERS. KISSINGER

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